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Our Country First

Can there be any act more sickening and revolting than a crowd of so called citizens desecrating and burning their country's flag? Those who resort to such morose behavior are surely lost in the depths of depravity. Obviously, their first loyalty is not to the United States.

True, our Nation is founded on concepts and principles which encourage dissent and opposition. These are traditions we must always defend and support. But touching a torch to the flag far exceeds reasonable protest. It is a shameful act which serves no purpose but to encourage those who want our country to erupt in violence and destruction.

On this 191st anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we might ask what causes unpatriotic outbursts and irrational protests. Why do people turn against their native land and openly support totalitarian forces whose goal is to enslave the world — forces which do not even allow token opposition from their subjects? Why do some individuals refuse to serve and defend their country? Why do they burn their draft cards and their flag?

There may be many reasons for such action, but I am fully convinced that dying patriotism is one major cause. Love of country is being de-emphasized and excluded from several phases of our life. Many educators and other leaders seem to feel it is no longer necessary for boys and girls to be concerned with how our country came into being, what it stands for, and the courageous and noble deeds of our forefathers to preserve it.

Conditions are now such in some circles that an individual who professes love of his country, reverence for its flag, and belief in the principles which make our Nation great is considered a yokel. Open aversion to patriotism of any form is increasing. Even some news media take a "tongue-in-cheek" approach to persons and groups which promote and participate in patriotic endeavors. Love of one's country is treated as some kind of social disease to be tolerated, if not stamped out. Protests are made that too much patriotism leads to international conflict. I submit that the United States will never have anything to fear from its ardent and genuinely patriotic citizens.

American history proves that freedom and liberty come at high prices and that their upkeep is costly and time-consuming. As Daniel Webster so aptly put it, "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it. Let our object be our country . . ." —not our country the object of desecration and abuse.—JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Director.
(Reprinted from the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin)

Morning Report:

We now know where dissent ends and destruction begins, thanks to three recent court decisions. It's nice to know because destroyers are dissenters but the reverse plainly is not true.

For one thing, you can't march to show your dissent after a judge tells you not to. Otherwise, why have judges for the rest of us? You can't grab 27 pals and sit in at a draft office. Otherwise, why have government offices? Also you can't round up 500 pals and sit in at a university building. Otherwise, why have universities?

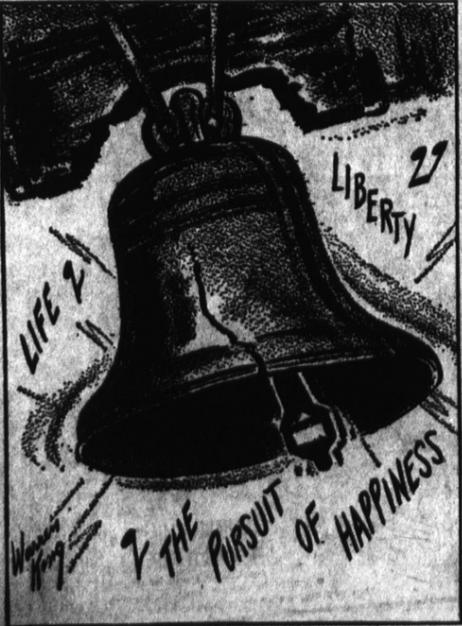
Or, as the famous Stanford professor, Edwin Cottrell said long ago: "Your liberty ends where my nose begins," and looking down his extremely long hatchet-hacked proboscis, "That gives you plenty of liberty."

Abe Mellinkoff

Opinions of Others

Facing realities sometimes is painful. However, to face facts, and move to solve problems and meet needs produces progress.—J. A. Williams in the Wytheville (Va.) Enterprise.

LET FREEDOM RING



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Governor's Collie Was Allowed on the Couch

Almost Human: Who says Ronald Reagan is against mental health? A base canard, sir. I suppose you never heard of the Canine Behavior Institute in Beverly Hills. Ah, how little you know. Well, Dare Miller is Chief of Psychiatry there, and he reports that Ronnie, before he became Governor, brought his tri-colored collie for training. He had had many dogs before, but he wanted to make sure that "this one had the proper education and would then be able to communicate with me." Adds Miller: "We advised Mr. Reagan on toilet training," and from all reports, the course (\$245 for six 45-minute psychiatric sessions) was a rousing success. . . . This sort of takes the steam out of that joke about one dog asking another "You ever been to a psychiatrist?" and the other replying, "You know I'm not allowed on the couch." Doesn't it?

As for Berkeley: Douglas Lyons, son of the well-known N. Y. columnist, Leonard Lyons, has become one of the leading activists on the campus (among other things, he heads CALM, the anti-capital punishment group). A little concerned as his involvements, Mrs. Lyons recently visited Cal., explaining to Doug: "I'm not worried about you, but I've heard so much about non-student agitators I want to see for myself." As they passed a desk man-

ned by campus Birchers, Mrs. Lyons started at the "Impeach Earl Warren" literature and began to argue with the student in charge. "Be quiet, Mom," implored Douglas, dragging her away. "You're becoming a non-student agitator!"

Sightseers: Peter Dalton, the urbane British Consul General, urbanely washing his Jaguar Mark 10 outside the Consulate on Pacific Ave.; when the CG has to wash his own car, not mat-

ter how urbanely I don't know what the Empire is coming to. . . . Eye-catcher of this week, midnight television: Model Cecile Osorio at Alexis' dishevelled, wearing an ultra-slimy mini dress covered with peace symbols — a protest movement that aroused considerable interest and an enthusiastic following; her legs alone are of redeeming social value. . . . On Bayshore Freeway, a long-haired hitch-hiker carrying a sign reading "Big Sur Only"; and alongside the saccharin tableas in a Fillmore District drugstore, a sign noting "For Local LSD" Baby-talk in the University of California Department of Agriculture: "No Smoking" posted in several languages under which someone has scrawled "Smoking Is a No-No" Graffiti called in Mervelous

WILLIAM HOGAN

H. Allen Smith Writes About 'Son of Rhubarb'

The late Fred Allen once described H. Allen Smith as "the screwball's Boswell" whose writing is dedicated to "the riff and the raff, those who slink through life fraught with insignificance."

A former newspaperman, Smith made his way in the humor market with such books as "Life in a Putty Knife Factory," "Lost in the Horse Latitudes" and "Two-Thirds of a Coconut Tree." I always found the titles much funnier than what appeared inside. But then, what constitutes good humor seems to be up there with religion and hippies as one of our cultures most controversial topics.

One of Smith's biggest successes was "Rhubarb," which appeared a generation ago, about a multi-millionaire cat of that name who inherited an industrial empire and a big-league baseball team. That was made into a movie, and a Hollywood legend of that period tells about a national press tour the author and a Paramount publicist named Rufus Blair made with a big orange cat, which would get lost in places like Indianapolis.

How true Blair's verbal accounts of this unlikely assignment were have been questionable for years. But I always hoped H. Allen Smith would write a true account of his Paramount

SAFETY OF STATE Sales Tax Proposal Hit By State's Businessmen

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Some rather startling complications have developed in the past few days with regard to Governor Ronald Reagan's proposal to extend the sales tax to repair service.

In the first place, business representatives at the state legislature are becoming somewhat disenchanted with the governor's proposals to impose and continue large and in some quarters believed to be confiscatory levies on the life-line of the state's economy.

For a good many years, business interests have sought repeal of the inventory tax, authorized by state law but imposed at the local level. The governor's tax bill contains no provision for repeal of this tax, which already has driven much warehousing business across the state's borders.

Next, business got somewhat of a shock when the governor's tax measure proposed extension of the state sales tax to usage of gas and electricity, for business users only.

A tax of this nature imposes additional expense running into the millions of dollars to such businesses as oil refineries and generation of electricity by utilities

which use gas at their power plants. Normally, a sales tax on repair services would not appear to create any great problems. Ordinary repairs usually do not reach a figure

out of proportion to the capacity to pay the tax. However, as in the case of the proposed tax on usage of gas and electricity, apparently no one recognized what a tax on repairs would mean to really large items of repair which are consumed in California, and contribute materially to the economy of the state.

One instance is that of repairs and remodeling of military and transport airplanes, a business that runs into high figures, and causes the employment of thousands of workmen by private plane companies.

In the case of repairs to planes owned by the private air lines, the tax would be an added cost to keeping equipment in airworthy shape. It would be charged as in the case of the sales tax, by the repairing company, which is usually the manufacturing company, to the user.

Military planes, however, offer a different problem. At the present time, there is a special exemption in the sales and use tax law providing that there be no collection of sales tax on planes sold to the federal government.

No such exemption, however, is contained in the new tax proposal, and officials of the board of equalization said that unless such exemption is written into the law, the private plane manufacturing companies would face the possibility of paying the tax.

In addition to this complication, there is also the anticipation of extra large taxes for the repair of heavy equipment, such as that used for road building. The tax therefore would increase the cost of building California's highways, which ultimately would react on the ordinary taxpayer.

It is small wonder then that representatives of big business view Governor Reagan's proposals with something more than ordinary alarm.

Obviously, in a program which necessitates tax increases, all categories of taxpayers are expected to pay a share. But when the share becomes more than it should be, there is room for protest.

ROYCE BRIER

Oil Key to Unraveling Crisis in Middle East

The Japanese in one war and the Germans in two did not prepare us for the present Arab attitude. The former realistically suppressed their resentment at defeat, though what went on in their inner selves is another matter.

Perhaps the Arab attitude is more in accord with human nature. The bitterness of a dream demolished is not easily escaped, and the Arab society is not trying to escape it.

So we have grim expressions from Cairo and other Arab centers of a determination to avenge themselves on the West. This is more impressive and practical-seeming than revenge on the Israelis, who presently hold

the strategic lines by force of arms. But the West is the real "enemy," the real "oppressor" of the Arab society. For decades it was Britain alone, enriching itself and the Arabs.

True, the Russians could produce it after some major chaos, but the Arabs know well it would enrich only the Soviet Union, not a single Arab.

So there's a little break in the Arab front — Saudi Arabia will resume production. President Nasser could have foreseen that. There will be many a break in the Pan-Arab talks of boycotting all Western goods. A boycott is only good when it works, and boycotts have an annoying habit of dissolving reality.

The reality here is that the Arabs can't make a go of the oil business in visible time. If they could confiscate Western holdings, production would drop to negligible. The point is not that the West invested in, and "owns," the field and refineries, but that it has the technology to operate them and market the product.

Other goods? Why, the Arabs need a little steel, chemicals, textiles, things like that. But the friendly Russians are not in a situation to substitute their supply for Western. Moreover, the Russians have a little Arab debt to collect for lost goods, and it won't be easy.

Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Algeria broke off diplomatic relations with the United States and Britain when the war opened. So how about tourists? These people have produced from a quarter to a third of the hard money exchanged in the countries named. They can't spend a dime while the breach lasts. Nor will the Congress authorize a dime for foreign aid while the breach lasts.

The whole silly tantrum will soon unravel. Animosity which costs you cash on the barrel-head is notoriously subject to second thoughts.

Harper & Row has announced Oct. 18 publication for the memoirs of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva. This historical document is tentatively titled "Twenty Letters to a Friend."

Norman Mailer's new novel, due in the fall from Putnam's, titled "Why Are We in Vietnam?" is not about Vietnam. It is about two Texas hunters after bear in Alaska, and advance reports claim it is an allegory, perhaps anti-LBJ.

"Have you noticed it now takes four cents for you to say your two cents worth on a penny postcard?"

